

ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus for filling flexible pouches with products such as beverages, shredded cheese, and chips. The filling apparatus includes a hood having a dispersion plate for delivering jets of gas such as nitrogen or carbon dioxide over the tops of empty, open, flexible pouches. The pouches are moved under the hood by a turret. Diving nozzles are lowered into the pouches to purge oxygen from the pouches. The pouches are moved by the turret to a fill tube which dispenses liquid into the pouch and then to a downstream purging station where a second diving nozzle is lowered to the top of the pouch to purge any remaining oxygen from the pouch.

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